

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2626

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TAGS: PFOR, AO, OAU, ZA

SUBJECT: COMCGENTARY AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON OAU SUMMIT SUPPORTIVE
OF US POSITION

REF: STATE 008555

1. PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND ZAMBIAN PRESS
COMMENTARY RE OAU SUMMIT CONFERENCE ALREADY REPORTED
LUSAKA 0071.

2. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, ZAMBIAN POSITION BOTH PRIOR TO AND AT
SUMMIT LARGELY PARALLELED OUR OWN WITH RESPECT TO CALL FOR
CEASE-FIRE, WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTION, FORMATION
OF GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY REPRESENTING ALL THREE ANGOLAN
POLITICAL MOVEMENTS. WITH RESPECT TO US, KAUNDA IS NOT REPORTED
TO HAVE UTTERED ANY PUBLIC PRAISE FOR OUR POSITION BUT TO HAVE
WAS CED SUMMIT THAT DISUNITY WITHIN OAU CAN ONLY LEAD TO "EFFECTIVE"
DECISIONS ON ANGOLA BEING MADE IN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW RATHER
THAN BY AFRICANS THEMSELVES. KAUNDA ALSO QUOTED AS CONDEMNING
INVOLVEMENT OF "SUPERPOWERS" AND THEIR RIVALRY AND WARNING THAT
IT NOT IN AFRICAN INTEREST TO SIDE WITH ONE SUPERPOWER "AS THAT IS
AN AUTOMATIC INVITATION FOR THE OTHER TO GET INVOLVED." KAUNDA'S
PUBLIC POSITION ECHOED IN ZAMBIAN PRESS COMMENTARY WHICH HAS
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TENDED BE EVEN-HANDED CRITICISM OF BOTH US AND USSR FOR WHAT

TIME OF ZAMBIA CALLS "PUPPET PULLING" IN ANGOLA.

3. COMMENT: FAUNDA OF COURSE CONCERNED PRESERVE HIS OWN AND ZAMBIA'S CREDENTIALS AS NON-ALIGNED AND PROGRESSIVE DESPITE FACT THAT HE HAS PARTED COMPANY WITH MOST PROGRESSIVES ON ISSUE OF ANGOLA. WHILE WE REGRET THAT ZAMBIANS FEEL THEY MUST THEREFORE MAINTAIN SOME DISTANCE IN PUBLIC BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND US ON ANGOLA WHILE COOPERATING CLOSELY WITH US IN PRIVATE, FACT REMAINS THAT ZAMBIA SHARED LEADERSHIP ROLE AT OAU IN RESISTING PRO-MPLA FORCES AND ADVOCATING MODERATE ALL-ANGOLAN SOLUTION. SO FAR ZAMBIA SHOWS NOW SIGNS OF RETREATING FROM THIS MODERATE, CONCILIATORY POSTURE WHICH GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF OUR OWN.

4. WE NOTE FROM PARA 2 ADDIS 0397 KAUNDA IN HIS SPEECH TO SUMMIT EXCUSED USG ROLE IN ANGOLA AS NECESSARY TO COUNTER SOVIET INPUTS. THIS POINT HAS NOT APPEARED IN EXCERPTS OF KAUNDA SPEECH CARRIED IN ZAMBIA NEWS AGENCY TICKER OR PUBLISHED IN ZAMBIAN PRESS. WE ARE TRYING OBTAIN FROM GRZ FULL TEXT OF SPEECH. MEANWHILE, EMBASSY ADDIS ABABA MAY WISH PROVIDE DEPARTMENT WITH PERTINENT PORTION OF KAUNDA SPEECH IF AVAILABLE THERE.
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